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### **911 EMERGENCY CALL VICTIMS' PRIVACY PROTECTED**

*~Measure Would Protect Victims from Reliving Tragedy in Public, Media~*

**TALLAHASSEE** – The House Governmental Affairs Policy Committee passed Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) 10-03 today seeking to protect the dignity of victims of crimes or traumas from having their situation exploited by the sensationalization of their recorded 911 calls. Under this bill, victims would be protected from having their tragedies exploited by the immediate release of their recorded 911 calls. Transcripts of the 911 calls would be made available to the public after 60 days. The measure is needed to help ensure that callers are not hesitant to seek assistance if there is a chance their privacy would be invaded because the tape would be made available to the general public.

“No one who has suffered a tragedy or been a victim of a crime deserves to be exploited,” stated Representative Robert Schenck (R-Spring Hill), Chairman of the House Governmental Affairs Committee. “When someone calls 911, they are not auditioning for a reality show. They are pleading for help. Too often, these tapes are rebroadcast senselessly and the tragedy replayed over and over, forcing the victims to constantly relive the event at the expense of their personal privacy and dignity.”

PCB GAP 10-03 expands current public record exemptions to include any recording of a request for emergency services or report of an emergency using an emergency communications 911 system. Sixty days after the date of a request for emergency services or a report of an emergency, a transcript of the recording may be made available pursuant to a public records request. To protect the victims, the name, address, telephone number, or other personal information remains confidential and exempt and must be redacted from the transcript. The person requesting the transcript is responsible for paying the actual cost of transcribing the recording.

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